

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00485 211121Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 EB-08 OES-07 DOE-11 SOE-02
COME-00 /124 W

-----105624 211130Z /17

P R 211036Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7392
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBWQ Y MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0485

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, MU, TC
SUBJ: TERMINATION OF RAK OFFSHORE DRILLING OPERATIONS

REFS: (A) ABU DHABI 371, (090950Z FEB 78) (B) ABU DHABI 285
(011104Z FEB 78)

1. IN MY FEB 21 MEETING WITH MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
RASHID ABDALLAH, HE CONFIRMED REPORT WE HAD EARLIER HEARD FROM
VARIOUS SOURCES THAT ZAPATA OIL RIG HAD STOPPED OFFHORE DRILLING
OPERATIONS WEEK AGO. ABDALLAH SAID THE REASON WAS NOT BECAUSE
RAS AL KHAIMAH HAD RUN OUT OF MONEY OR BECAUSE OF OMANI GUNBOATS
CIRCLING THE RIG BUT BECAUSE THEY HAD FOUND NO OIL THAT COULD
BE COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE. ABDALLAH DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT BY
REMOVING THE RIG AND TERMINATING FURTHER DRILLING OPERATIONS IN
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THE ARA, IT WOULD CLARIFY THE ATMOSPHERE WHEN UAE PRESIDENT
SHAIKH ZAYID AND SULTAN QABUS OF OMAN NEXT DISCUSS BOUNDARY
PROBLEMS. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD OCCUR SOON AFTER QABUS
RETURNS FROM HIS VACATION IN THE UK NOW THAT ZAYID IS BACK FROM
PAKISTAN.

2. SINCE PREPARING ABOVE, BRITISH AMBASSADOR ROBERTS HAS ALSO

CONFIRMED TO US THAT DRILLING HAS BEEN STOPPED AND THE DRILL
HOLE IS BEING PLUGGED TEMPORARILY. HE UNDERSTANDS THIS IS
BECAUSE THE EXPLORATION PHASE MAY HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT
WHILE SOME OIL HAS BEEN FOUND, IT IS PROBABLY OF MARGINAL COMMER-
CIAL VALUE.

DIEKMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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